Castes and the Scheduled Tribes population to the population of each State/Union Territory as determined on the basis of 2001 Census.

Growth in mineral sector

1521. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether national mineral sector has recorded a positive growth in 2004-05 according to the latest data available with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of robust growth in mineral sector, Government have not come out with any mineral policy so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government would take initiative to formulate a mineral policy shortly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines, the index of mineral production of all mineral excluding atomic minerals has shown a positive growth rate of 4.47% during 2004-05.

(c) and (d) The Government has already announced its National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals in 1993 and it is still in operation.

Offshore exploitation of mineral resources

1522. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any legislation for exploitation of mineral resources in the offshore areas;

(b) if so, details thereof including the action taken following the new legislation; and